



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/955,237	09/17/2001	Geert Fieremans	112740-290	8338
29177	7590	01/10/2006	EXAMINER	
BELL, BOYD & LLOYD, LLC			TON, DANG T	
P. O. BOX 1135			ART UNIT	
CHICAGO, IL 60690-1135			PAPER NUMBER	
			2666	

DATE MAILED: 01/10/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/955,237	Applicant(s) FIEREMANS, GEERT	
	Examiner DANG T. TON	Art Unit 2666	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 2666

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hunt et al. (5,539,881) in view of Elliott et al. (2002/0064149).

Regarding claim 1 and 9 Hunt teaches connecting the network to a central device (Fig. 2 elements 201,202) where DM in Fig. 2 is analogous to the central device and message transmission from a network node for a registered network node (Fig. 6, element 608). Hunt does not teach discovering a free node number from available node numbers via the central device and transmitting these node numbers to a network node as in claim 1. However Elliott discloses resource management explaining acquiring and releasing resources from a resource pool (Paragraph 1078) Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the resource assignment of Isaac K. Elliott to Christopher J. Hunt, et al. Motivation being to analyze the network configuration.

Regarding claim 2 Hunt message transmission from a network node for a registered network node (element 608).

Art Unit: 2666

Regarding claim 3 Hunt teaches DSNE (Directory Services Network element) gathering the identity information of network elements which are equivalent to network nodes in the claimed invention (column 1, lines 45-67) and routines updating DM (column 3, lines 47-54) where DM is analogous to the central device.

Regarding claim 4 Hunt teaches request message being transmitted to the central device (Fig 6, element 608) if a change needs to be made to the already assigned node number (column 8, lines 4-7).

Regarding claim 5, Hunt reference teaches all the limitations of claim 4 but does not teach a newly registered node number being accepted by a network node only if the central device is authorized to assign node number. The Elliott reference teaches honoring selected resource management policy at (paragraph 1102).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the resource assignment of Isaac K. Elliott to Christopher J. Hunt, et al. Motivation being optimization of resource allocation.

Regarding claim 6 Hunt teaches request message being transmitted from a network node to the central device (Fig 6, element 608). Hunt does not teach polling message transmitted from node to central device when the node is not assigned a node number. Elliott teaches polling while describing how a call monitor performs monitoring of calls by polling the call-monitoring interface (paragraph 2433) and Elliott also teaches resource management acquiring and releasing resources from a resource pool where resources can be nodes (Paragraph 1078) Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the

Art Unit: 2666

resource assignment of Isaac K. Elliott to Hunt, et al. Motivation being optimization of network resources.

Regarding claim 7 Hunt teaches transmitting node-specific information (column 1, lines 48- 59) from the network node to the central device (Fig. 6, element 608) within the context of a polling message (column 6, lines 24-38).

Regarding claim 8, Hunt teaches all of the limitations of claim 1 except the step of the request and polling messages being transmitted via a temporary signaling connection. Elliott teaches message switching (paragraph 2198). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the resource assignment of Isaac K. Elliott to Christopher J. Hunt, et al. Motivation being saving bandwidth.

Regarding claim 10, Hunt teaches connecting DM to DA (Fig. 2 elements 201,205) where DM is analogous to the central device and DA to the local area network).

2. Oath/Declaration

It does not include the notary's signature.

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DANG T. TON whose telephone number is 571-272-3171. The examiner can normally be reached on MON-WED, 5:30 AM-6:00 PM and Thur 5:30-9:30 A.M.

Art Unit: 2666

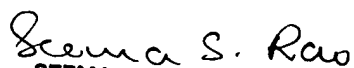
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, RAO SEEMA can be reached on 571-272-3174. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

D. Ton



DANG TON
PRIMARY EXAMINER


SEEMA S. RAO 116106
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600